

REMARKS

Claims 24, 36, 38, 42-44, 47, and 49 have been amended. Claim 46 has been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 23-26, 29-32, 34, 36-38, 40-44, and 47-50 are pending in the application. The allowance of claims 23, 25, 26, 29-32, 34, 41, 43, 44, and 48 is gratefully acknowledged. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview of July 16, 2008. During the interview the Examiner and Applicant's representative discussed amendments to the claims to overcome the current 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections. Applicants have made the amendments discussed and submit that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 24, 46, 47, 49, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Claims 24, 47, and 49 have been amended to overcome these rejections. For example, claim 24 now recites "subjecting the plurality of analyses to a hierarchy of classifiers to determine if at least one of an explosive or controlled substance is present in the object." Claim 49 now recites "comparing the incoming decomposed signature data with a library of signatures to determine if at least one of an explosive or controlled substance is present in the object." Claim 50 depends on claim 49 and is allowable for similar reasons.

Claims 36-38, 40, and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 36, 38, and 42 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the limitation "the array".

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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